



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**DECEMBER 28, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COLUMBIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CRACK COCAINE CHARGE**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

**Charles Roman Cooper**, 22, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Cooper** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Feb. 17, 2003, in Columbia. **Cooper** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 11, 2003, in Jefferson City.

Under federal statutes, **Cooper** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole up to a maximum sentence of life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)